

EL SALVADOR:

Serrano Garcia, Carlos
Urguia, Miguel Rafael

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CONFIDENTIAL/SECURITY INFORMATION

URQUIA, Miguel Rafael (Dr.)

EL SALVADOR

Miguel Rafael Urquía, Permanent Salvadoran Delegate to the United Nations, belongs to the liberal, mildly socialistic group of intellectuals and professional men who have supported President Oscar Osorio. Prior to 1949, Dr. Urquía was best known as an outstanding jurist and popular university law professor who wielded considerable influence in legal, student, and liberal political circles. During the mid-forties, he was active on behalf of presidential candidate, Dr. Arturo Romero, in opposition to the dictatorial General Osmin Aguirre, through such organizations as the Partido Union Democrática and the VACA (a group of liberal intellectuals and lawyers). As a result Urquía was expelled from the country during Aguirre's presidency. His appointment as Foreign Minister in December 1948 met with considerable opposition from right-wing military and business circles, supposedly on the grounds that Urquía was a "foreigner" (he is a native Honduran), but actually because of his political antecedents.

Unquestionably intelligent, Urquía is usually a smooth and non-committal negotiator. He is very persistent, however, and can become aggressive on controversial issues which he feels are matters of principle to him. A most characteristic personal trait is over-sensitivity, which transmits itself into a reserve and lack of savoir-faire which has been most apparent in United Nations assemblies. He is not only susceptible to offenses to his own pride, but extremely conscious of possible offense to his country's dignity. He responds to deference and attentions from members of his own delegation, and can become genuinely friendly and cooperative with those who gain his confidence. At the first part of the 7th session of UNGA, in which El Salvador was one of the few Latin American countries failing to cooperate on all of the important political problems, Urquía religiously refrained from attending the Committee debates on Tunisia, Morocco and Austria and in Plenary participated only to the extent of abstaining on the Moroccan item. His failure to cooperate brought forth criticism from many Latin Americans. However, he did support the U.S. policy on Korea.

Dr. Urquía is opposed to Communism and alert to the dangers of Soviet penetration which he would like to see neutralized in Latin American through enlightened social reform and economic development; in this sense, he has been a long-time believer in the concept of Central American union to be accomplished gradually and within the established Inter-American juridical framework. It is noteworthy that at the recent meeting at San José, Costa Rica, which resulted in the "Declaration of San José", Dr. Urquía upheld the legality of the ODECA from which Guatemala had withdrawn by pointing out that it was an organization of Central American states (an unspecified number) and not the Central American states (specifically all of them).

Press reports in March indicated that Ambassador Urquía and Ambassador Héctor David Castro would shortly return to El Salvador to complete work on proposed statutes for an Inter-American Court of Justice to be presented to the Caracas Conference in March 1954.

CONFIDENTIAL/SECURITY INFORMATION

URQUIA, Miguel Rafael (Dr.) (continued)

EL SALVADOR

Personal data: Born April 30, 1903 at Comayaguela, Honduras; mixed Spanish-Indian origin, with pronounced Indian features; married to Luz Bolanos, sister of a former Under Secretary of the Interior under Castañeda.

Education: National (Autonomous) University of El Salvador, LL.D.

Languages: Prefers to speak Spanish.

Career:

- 1944 Head of Juridical Department, Mejoramiento Social; Lawyer, Democratic Union Party (Romerista).
- 1948 Private law practice, San Salvador; Professor of Jurisprudence and Secretary General, National Autonomous University of El Salvador.
- 1948-1950 Minister of Foreign Affairs, December 16, 1948-September 14, 1950; Chief of Delegation, United Nations General Assembly, second part of third session, Lake Success, New York; Served for a time as one of six Salvadoran Supreme Court Justices; Delegate to Council of Jurists in Rio de Janeiro; Delegate to Conference of United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America at Montevideo.
- 1951 Permanent Representative to the United Nations, appointed March 1951; Counselor of Salvadoran Delegation to Fourth Meeting of Consultation of Foreign Ministers of the American Republics, Washington; Delegate, UN General Assembly, sixth session, Paris, November.
- 1952 Representative, Trusteeship Council, 10th and 11th sessions, New York; Chief of Delegation, UN General Assembly, 7th session, New York, November.

June 15, 1953

CONFIDENTIALDEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Biographic InformationSERRANO García, Carlos (Dr.)EL SALVADOR

Personal data: Born at Chalatenango, El Salvador, February 26, 1919; son of Dr. Indalecio Serrano (for twenty years Secretary of the Salvadoran Supreme Court) and Melida García de Serrano; bachelor.

Education: Graduated from "Liceo Salvadorno" with degree of Bachelor of Arts and Science October 1936; Degree of Doctor of Laws and Social Sciences from "Universidad Nacional Autónoma de El Salvador", October 11, 1945.

Languages: English and some French.

Career:

1945-1946 Attorney for indigents, Court of Appeals of the Central District;
District Attorney, Court of Appeals of the Third District;
Appointed Secretary of Legation, August 1946.
1948 Appointed Secretary of Embassy, Buenos Aires, June.
1949 Appointed Second Secretary of Embassy, Washington, March;
Delegate to fifth session of United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, Washington, November.
1951 Secretary to Salvadoran Permanent Delegation to the United Nations;
Delegate ~~Second Secretary of Delegation~~, UN General Assembly, sixth session, Paris, November.

☒ CIA has no objection to declass
☐ It contains information of CIA
interest that must remain
classified at TS S B
Authority: 1.2 7C-2
☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest
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Remarks:

Although a lawyer by profession, Dr. Serrano García's career has been almost entirely in the diplomatic service of his country. Having spent most of his adult life outside El Salvador, he has not been active in local politics. However, his background and education give him a conservative outlook, and he should favor the United States in international affairs as against the Soviet Union. He comes of an aristocratic Salvadoran family, of which he is very proud, and genealogy is one of his hobbies. He is also an authority on Spanish literature. He maintains a close friendship with the younger element in the Salvadoran Government, particularly with the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Carlos Azúcar Chávez, who heads the Salvadoran Delegation to the sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly. 1/

Dr. Serrano himself is not wealthy, but his maternal grandmother, Sra. Ignacia Parrilla viuda de García, owns considerable property in El Salvador, and occasionally supplements his salary. Slightly built, with light complexion and small black mustache, he has a pleasant, lively face and an extremely friendly disposition. He has always professed a sincere admiration for the United States, although his Spanish orientation may place him somewhat on the defensive with regard to our policies in Latin America. 1/

OLI:BI:FB Boyle:sc

October 19, 1951

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